No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AND/OR COMMON				
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STREET & NUMBER				
Ga	rden Key, Dry Tortuga	S	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
	miles west of		, Florida	6005
STATE	orida	CODE 1.2	county Monroe	CODE 087
		12	Honroe	
CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
XDISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	XPARK
_STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
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CONDITION

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__EXCELLENT __GOOD **X**DETERIORATED

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Jefferson National Monument (and structures); Preservation recommended. When President Polk signed an executive order creating the Tortugas Military Preservation, September 17, 1845, sixteen acre Garden Key was selected as the construction site for a super fort to guard and protect the U.S. Gulf Coast. Army Engineers drew up plans for a mammoth six-sided fort with three tiers of gun rooms towering 50 feet above ground. The hexagonal shape was not quite perfect since four sides were to be 476 feet and two sides 324 feet in length. Plans called for 450 cannon manned by 1,500 men at full strength.

Work began the fall of 1847 with black slaves from Key West. Over the next 30 years numerous slave gangs, northern carpenters and brick masons, Regulars and military prisoners worked sporadically. However, the Fort was never completed as planned. Work was hampered by low funds, periodic hurricanes and sickness, and materials were always lacking. Bricks were shipped from northern Florida; cut granite blocks from Maine; lumber, iron and other supplies were purchased throughout the south. Ships to bring in supplies were always scarce as other commodities brought more profit and there was always danger of wrecking in the shallow water near the keys.

Initial foundations of poured concrete were 10 feet wide and some portions five feet under water. Concrete was used until the walls reached mean water level when brick laying began. The outward brick walls were taken to the 50 foot level by 1862 where they narrowed to 8 feet in thickness. The great weight of the structure caused noticeable settling in the soft sand; however, 'the work continued. Adjoining buildings were completed as follows:

- 1. 1850 First section of the Officers Quarters.
- 2. 1863 Curtain magazines and hot shot furnace completed.
- 3. 1864 Barbette magazines and terreplein, main sewer and some kitchen buildings completed.
- 4. 1870 All "modern" guns mounted, Officers Quarters and barracks nearly completed.
- 5. 1872 Modernization work needed and some powder magazines remodeled.
- 6. 1875 Additional modifications completed end of Army construction.

The Navy Department was given control of the fortification in 1882. A coaling station for steam warships was built requiring additional construction and modification but the station was never heavily used. The Treasury Department and Agriculture Dept. have both had brief periods of control though neither department modified the Fort in any way. President Roosevelt proclaimed Tortugas a National Monument in 1935.

At the present time, the outward appearance of the Fort, though weathered, is much as it was at the end of Army construction. Some adjoining buildings have been removed. Fire gutted the Officers Quarters in 1927 and the crumbling walls were recently razed to ground level. Archeologists exposed the walls and foundations showing visitors the size and shape of the building.

Most wood and iron work has deteriorated greatly with only token stabilization or restoration being undertaken.

At the present time there are fifteen historic structures within the Fort area: Garden Key Lighthouse; Large Powder Magazine; Small Powder Magazine; Hot Shot Furnace; Dr. Mudd's Cell; Officers Quarters; Engineer Officers Quarters; Bakery; Cistern; Moat & Counterscarp; the Scarp; Casemates; Bastions; The Terreplein; Enlisted Mens Quarters.

PERIOD	D AR	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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1400-1499 -	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599 -	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	X_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	799ART	X ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER		
_1800-1899 -	LOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the first half of the nineteenth century the U.S. began a chain of seacoast defenses from Maine to Texas. Though not as extensive in area as Fort Monroe in Virginia, Fort Jefferson, seventy miles west of Key West was the largest of all Third System Forts in terms of armament for which it was designed, about 450 guns. Built to cover a strategic anchorage in the Gulf of Mexico, it was one of only three forts in the South to remain in Federal hands throughout the Civil War. It was never fully armed or even completed though construction proceeded well beyond the war and into the 1870's. During the postwar years the fort became a prison housing, among others some of the alleged Lincoln assassination conspirators, the most famous being Dr. Samuel Mudd. After serving nearly four years and having helped save many prisoners lives from yellow fever, Dr. Mudd received a full Presidential pardon. The Fort was virtually deserted in 1874, and it was not until 1900 that it was transferred to the Navy Department. It was later made available to the Dept. of Agriculture who used it as a Bird Sanctuary until it finally became a national monument in 1935.

The rich history of the area of Fort Jefferson goes back as far as 1513 when it was discovered by Ponce deLeon and named the Tortuga Islands, Tortugas being the Spanish word for turtle. Since the eight low-lying islands had no fresh water, sailors called them Dry Tortugas.

Pirates operated in and around the Dry Tortugas preying upon ships of all flags. Not until 1821 when Florida became part of the United States were the pirates successfully driven out.

The importance of the Dry Tortugas to military men grew as westward expansion of the country brought more and more commerce to Gulf Coast cities. To prevent enemy seizure of the islands and to insure the control of the Gulf of Mexico shipping, a decision was made to erect a Fort somewhere in the islands. Fort Jefferson served this purpose by being the key to control of the Gulf of Mexico because of its strategic location. Commerce from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic coast passed through this vital area. The Fort was begun on Garden Key in 1846 and was later named Fort Jefferson in honor of the former U.S. President.

During the 30 years of construction, Fort Jefferson was a quiet place with the Civil War the only event to bring major changes in building or life. Federal troops hurriedly occupied the half-completed, unarmed fortress in January 1864. The development of rifled cannon rendered Fort Jefferson obsolete long before construction was stopped.

Hurricanes and yellow fever, coupled with the obsolescense of the fortification led to abandonment of the fort by the Army in 18/4 with the work still under way. During the 1880's and 90's, the Navy looked upon Fort Jefferson as a recoaling station for its Caribbean fleet. From Tortugas Harbor, the Battleship Maine weighed anchor for Cuba, where she was blown up in Havana.

One of the first naval wireless stations was built at the Fort early in the 20th century and, during World War I, the area was equipped as a seaplane base. As the military moved out again, fires, storms and salvagers took their toll, leaving the "Gibralter of the Gulf" the vast ruin it is today.

MAJOR BIBLIOG				
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ON	1LY
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#1

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

1. Garden Key Lighthouse (No. HS-1) 24° 37' 40" N - 82° 52' 23" W
In 1876 this structure replaced the original 1825 lighthouse located on the parade ground. The light was mainly used as a beacon, since the much stronger light on nearby Loggerhead Key more adequately guided ships around the treacherous reefs. The lighthouse stands 37 feet above the terreplein, or 82 feet from the ground level. Its iron sides form a hexagon built over the stairway of the southeastern bastion. An observation deck with railing circumvents the lighthouse about halfway up the tower. On the top, a windowed room gives an unhindered view of the fort and surrounding waters. Plans are underway to rehabilitate the deteriorating lighthouse.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 40" N - 82° 52' 23" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

2. Large Powder Magazine (HS-2) 24° 37' 44" N - 82° 52' 23" W

Located near the northeastern bastion inside the fort, this barrel-vaulted magazine was built to serve as the main powder storage area. Its shell-proof arch was turned in 1866. The walls were raised 13½ feet, and if completed would have covered the arch which stands about 30 feet high. The magazine is structurally sound, except for the bricks on the parade ground face, which have been extensively damaged by weapons being fired by soldiers into the side of the magazine. The dimensions of the magazine are approximately 60' x 90'.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 44" N - 82° 52' 23" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

3. Small Powder Magazine (HS-3) 24° 37' 37" N - 82° 52' 25" W Located near the southwestern bastion inside the fort, construction on this double, barrel-vaulted magazine was begun in 1866 to serve as the secondary powder storage area. The walls are $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and if completed would have covered the arches, which stand at 11 feet. The dimensions of the magazine are 55' x 64'. The magazine appears to be structurally sound.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 37" N - 82° 52' 25" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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4. Hot Sactorurnace (HS-4) 24° 37' 45" N - 82° 52' 24" W

ed wrought-iron grate enclosed by brickmasonry. The dimensions of the furnace are approximately 18 feet high at the upper end and 9 feet high at the lower end. The furnace is about 8 feet wide and 30 feet long. A firepit located at the lower end heated the solid round shot a cherry red to be fired as incendiary projectiles from cannon. The shot took 30 minutes to heat and then were removed with tongs. The scale was removed with a rasp and the shot carried in a ladle to the cannons. The brick sides of the furnace are held together against the heat by transverse tie rods of wrought iron. The furnace roof consists of loose stone and is not waterproof. Although the exposed surfaces of the tie rods seem in fair condition, inside the masonry they have apparently exfoliated and the expansion has caused numerous joint fractures in the masonry.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 45" N - 82° 52' 24° W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

5. <u>Dr. Mudd's Cell (HS-5</u>) 24° 37' 38" N - 82° 52' 29" W

This structure is located at the far end of the south bastion (1), nearest the campground. The dimensions are 23' x 39' x 11'. Two embrasures at either end provide a view of the sallyport or beach. A doorway without a door provides the only access. Inside are located a plaque and photo of Dr. Samuel Mudd. Although there appears to be no concrete evidence that Dr. Mudd was imprisoned in this cell, there are some references in the literature which indicate that he was confined in this area. Except for doorway repairs and the need for a replacement door, this structure is in fairly good shape.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 38" N - 82° 52' 29" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

6. <u>Officer's Quarters (HS-6)</u> 24° 37' 43" N - 82° 52' 26" W

This structure was completed in 1874. It is located in the north portion of the parade ground with the Engineering Officer's Quarters at the west end and the Hot Shot Furnace on the east. This was a three story building with 63 rooms. The dimensions are 286' x 44'. The detached kitchens behind the quarters were two stories high. The Officer's quarters had plastered walls, venetian blinds, piazzas and fenced yards. Captain Rice of the Key West Army Post burned the structures in 1927 "because they were dangerous". In 1962 the walls were taken down for safety reasons and now only the foundations remain.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 43" N - 82° 52' 26" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

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7. Enlisted Mens' Quarters (HS-7) 240 37' 42" N - 820 52' 22" W

This three story structure was completed in 1875. It is located on the east side of the parade ground, with the large powder magazine at its northern end. The dimensions are 338' x 35'. It provided barracks for ten companies (1,000 men) with a detached kitchen for each company. Each room had a fireplace. There were piazzas supported by pillars on each story. The quarters burned during a fire in 1912. Today only the foundation remains.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 42" N - 82° 52' 22" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

Engineer Officer's Quarters (HS-8) 24° 37' 42" N - 82° 52' 28" W This two-story structure was completed in about 1866. It is located in the northwestern corner of the parade ground southwest of the officer quarter's foundation. The dimensions are 50' x 43', not including the detached old building which measures 30' x 20'. Two of the three buildings have been renovated to house the resident National Park Service Manager and Maintenance Worker. The "duplex" arrangement contains two bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen and 1½ baths in one residence; and one bedroom, a living room, dining room, kitchen and one bathroom in the other residence. The structures were built as quarters for the Doctor, Clerk, and Engineer. They were later to be used as kitchens for officers quarters that were never built. The quarters now in use were in similar condition to the old building before renovation after 1935. All three structures are of the same size, shape and design as the old detached kitchens that were demolished with the officers quarters. It has been suggested that the older building be rennovated and used as employee quarters.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 42'' N - 82° 52' 28'' W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

9. <u>Bakery (HS-9)</u> 24° 37' 43" N - 82° 52' 29" W

Located in the northwest bastion, the bakery contained two large ovens. Each had a flue that rose to the terreplein. The ovens were heated by a firebox located below and separate from them. The dimensions of the bakery are approximately 25' x 20' x 12'. It is planned to include the bakery on the visitor tour route because it relates to the living conditions of the people who occupied the fort in the late 1800s. Aside from a certain amount of mortar repair work, the bakery is in fairly good condition.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 43" N - 82° 52' 29" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

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Ο.	Cistern	(HS-10)	240	371	3811	TΛT	_	820	521	27"	TAT
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This concrete structure was begun in 1851 to serve as a foundation for a chapel and offices that were never constructed. It was completed in 1852. The dimensions are 66' x 53'. The three storage chambers have a combined capacity of about 94,000 gallons. The cistern presently serves as the Fort's only fresh water storage area. It collects water from the roof of two quarters on the parade ground, an adjacent casemate quarters, the surface of the cistern itself, and a limited amount from the terreplein. The cracks on the surface of the cistern have been filled in with roofing tar to keep weeds from widening the cracks and to seal the surface.

Significance: 3rd order 24° 37' 38" N - 82° 52' 27" W Recommended level of treatment: preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above:

11. The Moat and Counterscarp (HS-11)

The Counterscarp (most wall) was constructed to provide protection to the fort wall against heavy seas and currents, and as a barrier against enemy attack. Work on the most wall began in 1849 and was mostly finished by 1851. although final excavation of the moat and completion of the counterscarp was not finished until 1873. On the East, Southeast, and part of the Southwest sides of the fort this wall is within the confines of the island land mass. The width of the counterscarp varies from three feet on the Southeast and Southwest to six feet on the East and Southwest, and finally increases to eight feet on the Northwest, West and Southwest areas that are exposed to the open sea. The bottom of the foundation lies five feet below low water. The wall itself is nine feet high brickmasonry, but the finished top is elevated six feet above mean low water. approximately seventy feet wide. The most and counterscarp are very important in protecting the fort wall against the battering of heavy storm seas. Sections of the wall have been broken or displaced, allowing free movement of water into the moat. In some places the top surface of the counterscarp is deteriorated and is very rough and dangerous to walk If this wall is to continue as a protective buffer between the sea and the main fort structure, and as a visitor walkway, it will have to be repaired.

Significance: 3rdorder
Recommended level of treatment: preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above:

12. The Scarp (HS-12)

The scarp (exterior wall) of the fort is contructed on a concrete foundation 14 feet wide by 2 feet thick, its bottom laid at 5 feet below low water. At the bastion scarps, the foundation is 12 feet wide. The scarp walls are of brickmasonry 10 feet thick at the base. They taper to 8 feet thick at an elevation of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet and maintain this breadth up

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12. The Scarp (HS-12) (Continued)

to the crown at 45 feet. At embrasures, the wall is reduced to 5 feet thick. Except for some lateral support received from the casemate piers, the scarp is a free-standing structure. Uneven settlement of the unstable foundation has caused many fractures in the scarp. The major source of damage and deterioration along the exterior face of the fronts and bastions is from the exfoliation of the iron frames within the lower tier gun embrasures. This results in cracks in the scarp which may extend to the second tier embrasures. Structural failure does not seem imminent in view of the sound engineering and careful workmanship in the fort, but sensitive areas should nevertheless receive periodic engineering checks. To stop some of the damage to the scarp it is necessary to fill in cracks and do minor reconstruction which may involve removal of the exfoliated iron in the lower tier embrasures.

Significance: 3rd order
Recommended level of treatment: preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above:

13. Casemates (HS-13)

The casemates (gunrooms) are strongly vaulted galleries behind the scarp. They provide shelter for first and second tier cannon, and also support the terreplein or roof for the upper tier armament. The basic design for the 159 casemates on each tier is the same, with adaptations for powder magazines, storerooms and other modifications. The dimensions vary, but most commonly are about 12' x 15' x 8'6". Under the stone flagging floors of 109 lower casemates are cisterns. Each of these was supplied with rainwater collected on the terreplein and piped through pipes in the casemate piers. The cisterns are 10 feet wide by 30 feet long by 6 feet high at the top of the arch. The capacity is about 11,000 gallons. The embrasures (gun ports) pierce the scarp to allow ranges of cannon fire over specific defensive sectors. At each embrasure the scarp is reduced from the normal 8' thickness to 5 feet. The actual opening is 19" wide by $27\frac{1}{2}$ " high except in the bastions, where the width is 15". The embrasures were built during the period 1856 - 1858. The second tier casemates were not completed, but in order to present an appearance of completion, the outer walls were bricked in with one layer. These thin veils are now mostly worn away. Throughout the casemates the masonry has deteriorated. Damage includes spalling, cracking, seperation of casemates from scarp; horizonal and vertical displacement; iron exfoliation; and loss of mortar.

Significance: 3rd order
Recommended level of treatment: preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above:

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14. Bastions (HS-14)

Six bastions are located at the corners of the hexogonal fort on the first and second tiers. Six howitzers, which provided a flank defense of the fort, were located in each bastion. Powder magazines are located adjacent to the stair tower on each tier. The stair towers consist of granite slabs arranged in a spiral manner with the one end forming a center column and the other set in the brick tower wall. They are self-supporting and have a medival design. Fireplaces and chimneys were located in each bastion. Three pillars help support each of the bastions. Due to their projection at the fort angles, the bastions are especially vulnerable to peripheral settlement. Severe local settlement of some bastions has caused fractures of vaults and arches.

Significance: 3rd order

Recommended level of treatment: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above:

15. The Terreplein (HS-15)

Most of the terreplein, or fort roof, was completed by 1864. It is shielded by a parapet, which forms the outer raised perimeter. The barbette, which forms the gun platform, makes up the outer portion of the terreplein. Sixteen raised barbette magazines are located on the terreplein. Originally these were designed with passageways parallel to the scarp, but later these were plugged for powder storage safety reasons. Catwalks on the inner side then provided the only access to the barbette magazines. Armament on the barbette in 1863 consisted of six 10-inch columbiads which were ten years later replaced by 15-inch Rodman Smoothbores and 8-inch Parrott Rifles. Specimens of the Rodman Cannon and Parrott Rifles remain on the terreplein today. The terreplein was designed to collect rainwater in a water collection gallery and channel it into cisterns through pipes inside the pillars. Sand was placed over the catchment area. One terreplein area is exposed, showing the catchment system. The terreplein measures 26' across, excluding the parapet, which is 15' wide. The fort roof is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in circumference. The lead flashing which helped make the terreplein waterproof was removed by salvagers in the early 1900's. Other forms of decay have resulted in water leakage which is accelerating the water damage. To preserve the fort in its entirety, waterproofing the terreplein would be necessary.

Significance: 3rd order

Recommended level of treatment: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above:



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#7 CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fort Jefferson

Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property

Corner	La	titude	Longitude							
	Degrees-	Minutes-	Seconds	Degrees-Minutes-Seconds						
NW	24	37'	50"	82	52'	30"				
NE	24	37 '	50"	82	52'	15"				
SE	24	37 '	25"	82	52*	15"				
SW	24	37 '	25"	82	52'	30"				